

**SPECIFICATION AMENDMENT**

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 19-20, as follows:

This application hereby incorporates by reference and claims benefit of U.S. Application No. 09/475,642, filed 12/30/99 (Attorney Docket No. 164.1002.01), now U.S. Patent No. 6,650,623.

Please amend the paragraph at page 11, line 21, to page 12, line 7, as follows:

Each frame included in a TDMA frame 210 includes a frame descriptor packet 250 that describes the contents of the following frame to each consumer premises equipment 130. The frame descriptor packet 250 has several constant properties: (1) it is always the first packet in a TDMA frame 210; and (2) it is always a fixed size. In addition to these constants, the size of a TDMA frame 210 is also fixed and every TDMA frame always starts at times that are multiples of the frame size. These constant properties ensure that contact between the consumer premises equipment 130 and the base station controller 120 is always maintained, even if one or more frame descriptor packets 250 ~~230~~ should get "lost".

Please amend the paragraph at page 12, lines 7-22, as follows:

Each frame in the upstream portion 230 includes one or more request sections 231, one or more acknowledgment sections 232, a maintenance section 233, and one or more upstream payload elements 223, ~~223~~, all of which are formatted as data packets, complete with packet headers and associated information. Similar to the downstream portion 220, an inter-payload guard band 224 separates successive upstream payload elements 223.

Please amend the paragraph at page 20, lines 5-7, as follows:

At a step 314, the base station controller 120 waits for the guard band 240 ~~340~~ to pass before attempting to receive information from customer premises equipment 130. The method 300 continues with the flow point 330 and the flow point 340.

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